

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02522 221725Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 HA-05 /078 W
-----079563 230200Z /70
R 221646Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8135

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2522

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: VISIT TO EL SALVADOR OF AMBASSADOR QUINONEZ MEZA

1. ROBERTO QUINONEZ MEZA, EL SALVADOR'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, RECENTLY SPENT ABOUT TEN DAYS IN SAN SALVADOR. IT WAS A BUSY AND SOMEWHAT HECTIC PERIOD FOR HIM.

2. WHILE HERE, AMBASSADOR QUINONEZ CONFERRED REPEATEDLY WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO AND OTHER TOP GOES OFFICIALS. HE WORKED HERE ALSO WITH A VISITING REPRESENTATIVE OF EL SALVADOR'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT IN THE UNITED STATES. AT OUR EMBASSY RESIDENCE, HE ATTENDED A LUNCHEON FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN DISCUSSION OF THE RECENT AACLA MEETING AND OF THE WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS WHICH IT HAD MADE POSSIBLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE EL SALVADOR DELEGATION.

3. AMBASSADOR QUINONEZ' VISIT ALSO COINCIDED WITH THE PRESENCE HERE OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES SALLY SHELTON AND MARK SCHNEIDER. AT AN EMBASSY RESIDENCE DINNER, HE ENGAGED THEM ACTIVELY IN DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS AND ASKED THEM EXACTLY WHAT CORRECTIVE ACTION WAS DESIRED OF EL SALVADOR. IT WAS ALSO AMBASSADOR QUINONEZ WHO TELEPHONED ME TO GIVE ME MY FIRST REPORT ON IBRD ACTION ON
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02522 221725Z

THE ANTEL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION LOANS.

4. WHILE HE WAS HERE, THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS. TWO SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THIS, AND THAT ONE OF THE ANONYMOUS CALLERS ALLEGEDLY TOLD HIM, "YOU HAVE BEEN LUCKY SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE BUT THIS TIME YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE US."

5. AMBASSADOR QUINONEZ EXTENDED HIS STAY IN SAN SALVADOR WHEN A YOUNG RELATIVE, ERNESTO SOL MEZA, WAS ONE OF TWO PERSONS KIDNAPPED FROM THE PARKING LOT OF THE HOTEL SHERATON. HE STAYED ON TO HELP HIS RELATIVES WITH WHAT COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED A SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL AND FAMILY TRAGEDY.

6. ON OR ABOUT MAY 18, THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO WASHINGTON, AND ON MAY 20 HIS YOUNG SON WAS KILLED WHILE PILOTING A HELICOPTER JUST OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL CITY. THE AMBASSADOR AND MRS QUINONEZ ARRIVED IN SAN SALVADOR FOR THE FUNERAL ON MAY 21.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
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Film Number: D780216-0270
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From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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